



## Environmental Justice Concerns

Devil's Swamp Lake Site  
Alsen, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana

<Date>

### Site Background and History

The first part of the Devil's Swamp Lake (DSL) investigation, also known as the Tier 1 Remedial Investigation (RI) has been completed. The document was reviewed and approved. The final document has also been distributed to the Technical Assistance Grant recipient, and copies are available in the site repository library.

#### The Site

The DSL National Priorities List (NPL) site is in a large flood plain area near Alsen, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana. Prior to the 1950s, uses of the area consisted of farming, grazing, and some logging. Rapid industrialization throughout the 1960s and 1970s resulted in the establishment of numerous industrial and waste storage facilities, with subsequent releases of hazardous substances.

#### The Potentially Responsible Party (PRP)

The Clean Harbors Environmental Services, Inc. (Clean Harbors), formerly Rollins Environmental Services of Louisiana, Inc. began operating a hazardous chemical disposal facility in 1971. This facility is adjacent to Devil's Swamp.

#### Superfund Activities

The PRP is currently conducting a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) that would evaluate the extent of contamination and environmental risks. At the same time the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) and the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (LDHH), will conduct a reassessment of the fish consumption advisory.

### Engaging the Community

#### 1. Community Concerns

In response to community concerns, EPA issued several fact sheets, attended community meetings and conducted an investigation of the drinking water supply in coordination with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals.

In December 2009, the EPA coordinated a community Health Fair with local health agencies to provide basic health screenings as well as a variety of information booths of health related programs, services and providers.

#### 2. Technical Assistance Grant (TAG)

EPA has provided a Superfund Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) to an eligible community group to procure an independent Technical Advisor (TA) to help the group interpret and comment on site related information and decisions. This was awarded to Alsen/St. Irma Lee Community Enterprise, Inc., located in the Alsen community.

In 2011 and 2012, the EPA attended community meetings to

present updates on the status of the current investigation.

#### 3. Environmental Justice (EJ)

The nearby Alsen community is an EJ community. It is a very active community that has been reported as the head of cancer alley in Louisiana.

#### 4. The EJ Concerns

The Devil's Swamp Lake NPL site and other NPL sites such as Petro Processors of Louisiana are close to this community. While the Superfund investigation and remedial actions continue to make progress, other facts and actions raise strong community concerns. These include:

1. Proximity to a former Hazardous Waste disposal facility, the former Rollins.
2. Proximity to two (2) Superfund NPL sites, DSL and Petro Processors of LA, Inc.
3. Proximity to a major solid waste disposal facility, the "East Baton Rouge Parish North Landfill".
4. Proximity to a private clearing, demolition, recycling disposal facility, the "Ronaldson Field Landfill".
5. Proximity to a proposed disposal facility currently requesting a permit.
  - a. This is the Louisiana Land Acquisitions company that is requesting opening of an industrial waste landfill along Brooklawn Road near the community.
  - b. It is the company's third attempt in more than 15 years to get the site a permit to operate as a solid waste landfill. A pit has been in place at the site since the late 1980s.
  - c. The LDEQ is accepting public comments on the permit application until 9/30/13.
  - d. This is subject to recent newspaper and television news reports.

**THERE IS STRONG OBJECTION BY SOME COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO THE ABUNDANCE OF WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITIES NEAR ALSEN.**

### Site Technical and Community Involvement Staff

**Bart Cañellas, EPA Superfund Remedial Project Manager**  
214.665.6662 or 1.800.533.3508 (toll-free)

**Bill Little, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator/SEE**  
214.665.8131 or 1.800.533.3508 (toll-free)

**Donn Walters, Regional Public Liaison**  
214.665.6483 or 1.800.533.3508 (toll-free)

**Commented [lj1]:** Would ... "has been referred to as the beginning..."

**Commented [lj2]:** Would "issues" be better?

**Commented [lj3]:** Is this missing any text